

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-9, 11-15, 17-22 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 5, 9, and 18 being the independent claims. Claims 16 and 20 are canceled, and incorporated into claims 9 and 18, respectively, without any prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 9 and 18 have been amended to now even more clearly claim Applicant's claimed invention. New claims 21 and 22 are added. These changes are not believed to introduce any new matter.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowed Claims

In the Action on page 9, claims 1-8 continue to be allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing these claims.

Objections to the Claims

In the Action on pages 2-3, claims 12 and 13 are objected to for informalities. Claim 12 is amended to correct the informalities noted in the Action. Applicant's version of claim 13 did not contain the informality noted in the Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Action on pages 3-6, claims 9, 14, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "Microsoft Outlook 2000 Step by Step" (hereinafter "Outlook"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant's amendments are believed to render moot the current rejection. Claim 16 is canceled. Applicant's claims 9, 14, 17, and 18, as amended, set forth a system and computer readable medium that differ in several important ways from the applied reference, as discussed in detail below:

As amended, claim 9 recites:

An electronic message system comprising:

a user-assignable personal file folder, wherein said user-assignable personal file folder has associated with said user-assignable personal file folder at least one of: at least one recipient, a sender, an email address of the sender, a username of a sender, an email address of the at least one recipient, or a username of the at least one recipient,

a user selectable save message instruction operative, upon a selection by the user of a single user interface element, to automatically store in one of one or more user selected user-assignable personal file folders, a user selected previously received message,

wherein the system automatically stores an outgoing message, at the same time as said outgoing message is sent, to at least one user-assignable personal file folder having associated with the user-assignable personal file folder a recipient of the outgoing message.

Emphasis added. Outlook fails to teach or suggest all the elements of claim 9.

First, Outlook fails to teach or suggest “***a user-assignable personal file folder, wherein said user-assignable personal file folder has associated with said user-assignable personal file folder at least one of: at least one recipient, a sender, an email address of the sender, a username of a sender, an email address of the at least one recipient, or a username of the at least one recipient.***” Instead, Outlook teaches creating folders separate from the provided “Inbox” folder, in which a user may either manually drag a message, or create a rule in which a message may be moved or copied to a specified folder. See Outlook, p. 231. The folders in Outlook, however, do not have any recipient or sender associated with them. In contrast, in applicant’s invention, a folder has a property which may have one or more recipients assigned to it, allowing ease of storage of incoming and outgoing messages without the user having to create rules.

Second, Outlook fails to teach or suggest “***wherein the system automatically stores an outgoing message, at the same time as said outgoing message is sent, to at least one user-assignable personal file folder having associated with the user-assignable personal file folder***

a recipient of the outgoing message.” Outlook, at best, allows a user to create a rule to place a copy of a message into a specified folder **after** the message is sent. See, e.g., Outlook FIG. 10.6. Outlook fails to teach or suggest storage of outgoing messages to a user-assignable personal file folder having associated with it a recipient of the outgoing message.

Regarding new claims 21 and 22, Outlook teaches, at best, allowing a user to create rules for sorting and storing messages, but does not provide any automatic rules based on a property of a storage folder. See Outlook, page 231. In order to emulate performance of an embodiment of the present invention, a user of Outlook would have to manually create a separate rule, using the Rules Wizard, for each email recipient in order to have copies of outgoing messages stored in a folder in addition to the Sent Mail folder. In contrast, the present invention may allow the automatic storage of sent messages into folder associated with the recipient, without the user’s having to create a rule at all.

Claim 16 is canceled. Claims 14 and 17, as well as new claim 21, depend from claim 9, and are allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim.

Claim 18 recites elements similar to those in claim 9 and is allowable for at least the reasons given above regarding claim 9. Claims 19 and new claim 22 depend from claim 18 and are allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Action on pages 8-9, claims 11, 15, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Outlook”.

In the Action on pages 9-12, claims 12, 13, 16, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over “Outlook” in view of “Teach Yourself.” Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Claims 11, 12, 13, and 15 depend from claim 9, which is allowable as discussed above. Claims 16 is canceled. Claim 19 depends from claim 18, which is allowable as discussed above. Claim 20 is canceled.

Applicant: Ross, Robert, Jr. Appl. No. 09/714,997

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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